

From: Benally, Rebecca
To: [Downey Magallanes](#)
Subject: Fwd: RE: Commissioner Benally Speech 12/17
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 1:28:03 PM
Attachments: [Commissioner Benally Speech.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Matthew Anderson" <Matt@sifreedom.org>
Date: Dec 3, 2017 9:28 PM
Subject: RE: Commissioner Benally Speech 12/17
To: "Benally, Rebecca" <rmbenally@sanjuancounty.org>
Cc:

Hi Rebecca,

I made those small changes we talked about. All the changes I made are highlighted in yellow.


SignatureMatt



From: Benally, Rebecca [mailto:rmbenally@sanjuancounty.org]
Sent: Sunday, December 03, 2017 8:19 PM
To: Matthew Anderson
Subject: Fwd: Commissioner Benally Speech 12/17

FYI

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From: "Benally, Rebecca" <rmbenally@sanjuancounty.org>
Date: Dec 1, 2017 1:09 PM
Subject: Commissioner Benally Speech 12/17
To: <>
Cc: "Natalie Callahan" <natalie@thediciogroup.com>

FYI

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From: "Rebecca Benally" <(b) (6)>

Date: Dec 1, 2017 1:06 PM

Subject: Commissioner Benally Speech 12/17

To: "rmbenally@sanjuancounty.org" <rmbenally@sanjuancounty.org>

Cc:

**San Juan County Commissioner
Rebecca M. Benally**

Ya'a'teeh Shi'ke doo shi'dinei' Ashi'nee Do'adai teii'
Kinyaa'aanii nishli, To'ahaadlini Bi'sheesh'cheen

When Bear Ears National Monument was designated, it was a disheartening day for my communities and San Juan County citizens.

1.35 million acres, an area larger than Rhode Island and Delaware was now locked up with limited to no access, an area in our own backyard.

We have used these areas :

- To gather plants for medicine
- To gather wood to heat our homes
- To hunt for food
- And a Sacred place to give offering

San Juan County has become a talking point for political pundits from both sides of the aisle:

1. People who have never been here and likely couldn't find us on the map
2. People who don't understand our cultures, tradition and histories
3. People who don't care what happens to us

These are the people who have defined the narrative and passed judgment on us.

San Juan County is our home, it is our heart, it is where we come from and where we choose to stay.

This monument designation was a land grab. It was about control of the land and the people. We have managed this pristine land for generations.

As a Native American-Dine' woman it was insulting that bureaucrats thousands of miles away didn't believe we were capable of protecting and preserving our homeland. When I know the bureaucrats have made promises to Native Americans and broken those promises again and again.

Thank you, Secretary Zinke, for coming to San Juan, Kane and Garfield counties and listening to the local grassroots people. Your boots on the ground approach was unexpected, but well received and appreciated.

Thank you Senator Hatch, Senator Lee, Congressman Bishop, former Congressman Jason Chaffetz and the rest of Utah's congressional delegation. You and your staffs have been champions for us. Thank you for never giving up. For believing we could rectify a wrong and for being fighters for San Juan County and our people.

Thank you President Trump. Thank you for not being a typical politician and passing us over. Thank you for caring about San Juan County. We may be only 15, 000 strong, but we matter. We appreciate you willing to take the backlash from the special interest groups as you stand for the people and economy of San Juan County.

Thank you Sutherland Institute. You gave us confidence to raise our voices then amplified that voice to the nation.

Thank you to the local grassroots people. This would have never happened without your willingness to share your voice. There have been some long nights and prayers during the process. We came together in unity, despite the fact that divisiveness was intended. Your work is the reason we are here today.

It is an honor to be here today. As Commissioners we have done all we can to represent and fight for San Juan County and importantly for our people.

Now it's time to continue in unity and move forward.

Hozho Nahasdli

(The next speaker is our Governor Gary Herbert. He has been an advocate for our county and has lead with a calm and steady hand. We are grateful for your leadership. Thank you for your unwavering support and confidence. Please welcome Governor Gary Herbert.)